1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this study was to evaluate economic impacts to areas within the flood fringe under alternative floodplain management alternatives. The flood fringe is the area between the 100-year floodplain boundary and the regulated floodway. The floodway is determined by hydraulic simulations that vary the amount of encroachment on each side of the channel until the rise in the 100-year floodplain is less than or equal to the allowable rise (See Figure 1-2).

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has set the minimum floodway encroachment to be a 1-foot rise in the 100-year flood elevation. However, many communities have elected to adopt more stringent floodplain management regulations such as no net rise in the 100-year flood elevation and/or compensatory storage. These types of floodplain management regulations limit the increase in downstream peak flow rates by maintaining the floodplain storage. A more restrictive floodplain management regulation will reduce the amount of developable land within the floodplain fringe; however, benefits include a potential reduction in flood damage risk to buildings within the flood fringe and the preservation of floodplain storage, green space, and riparian habitat.